

**Myles Cooper to George Washington, January 10, 1774,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM THE REVEREND DOCTOR COOPER.

KINGS COLLEGE, N YORK, Jan. 10. 1774.

GOOD SIR,

I have received Yours and Mr. Custis's Letters of the 15th. of December. For the many polite. Expressions of Regard, in Both, I beg Leave to return my just Acknowledgements. I hope and earnestly wish, the *young Adventurer* may enjoy every Pleasure, in his new State, which his Imagination hath already formed and from every Account of the young Lady's Disposition and Qualifications, and from my own Knowledge of His, I cannot but think, that they bid very fair for Happiness: I pray Heaven they may obtain it.¹

The Monies You left in my Hands were nearly expended when Mr. Custis went to Virginia; what remained not being sufficient to pay the Tutors the Stipulated quarterly Salary. Since the Rect. of Your's, I have called in all the Bills that I could think of: amongst which are *two* of considerable Sums: viz. Rivington's of 19. 2. 3.£ and Graham, a Taylor's, of £58 3. 10½. Besides these, there are several Small ones; of all which, together with an exact Account of my own Payments, You shall receive the Sums, by the next Post, I say the *Sums*, on Account of the *Postage*, the Bills themselves, as well [as] those already paid, with Rects. to them, as those not yet discharged being equally at your Service, if You think proper to have them.

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The Amount, taken collectively, seems large, but you will find, on Consideration, that ye really Collegiate Expences are no ways high. The Death of Miss Custis brought on a considerable Charge; but then the Articles are in Being. The Chair, The Horse, the Money given to Mr. Custis for travelling Expences swell the Bill exceedingly; but then, the two former Articles are nearly worth as much, I presume, at this Time, as they were then. The Money laid out in papering the Room &c must be sunk of course: the furniture has been sold at Auction under the Care of Mr. Harper, into whose Hands Mr. Vardill committed the Business, upon his sailing for England. The same person has pack'd up Mr. C's Clothes &c, & sent them as directed. You will find that ye. Professors have just been paid their constant Wages; with which they have no Reason to be dissatisfied; tho they much lament Mr. Custis's unexpected Departure. For my own Part, it is impossible to make any Charge at all: I have no Idea of it.²

I should have been happy in waiting upon You at Mount Vernon: but Circumstances, not to be foreseen, utterly put it out of my power to begin my Journey, till such Time as I was convinced You must have set off for Williamsburgh: so that I was not *disappointed*. perhaps upon some future Occasion, I may be more fortunate It would afford me much pleasure to spend a few days with you and Mr. Custis, *any* where: and, I hope it is not unsupposeable that you and He (after he has been sometime an Husband) may take another journey to the northward.

I will write to Mr. C. when I send the Accounts. In the mean Time I beg my best Regards to Him, & am, Dr. Sr. with great Esteem & Respect, Your

Most obedt. Servt. &c. &c. M COOPER

You must excuse the *Scrawl* for the

Ink, every second, freezes in my Pen.

¹ John Parke Custi was married to Eleanor Calvert February 3, 1774.

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2 “You will now receive a Draft on Messrs. Osgood, Hanbury & Co,—for £65, Sterling,—which please to dispose of, & with the money arising, discharge the several claims which you have taken the trouble to collect, against Mr. Custis; whose residence at Kings College, I little expected would have been of such short duration; otherwise, I shou'd not (as his guardian) have thought myself justified in incurring so great an expense; not that I think he could have got conveniently & agreeably fixed in the College for less than what is charged on that account, but then, for the benefit of only three months residence there, this might have been avoided,—however, as his discontinuance at it, is an act of his own, & much against my judgment, he can only blame me (if he blames at all) for yielding too easily to his importunities, supported by the concurrence of his relations.—I could have wished, Sir, you had been pleased to make a charge in the accot for your own trouble, or that I knew what was customary & proper to be allowed on these occasions.”—Washington to Dr. Cooper, April 25, 1774.